

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims, the amendments to the specification and the following remarks.

The present invention includes a method for operating a dishwasher that employs a steaming step prior to any washing with water. In one of the novel aspects of the invention, the steaming step is conducted at an elevated pressure compared to atmospheric pressure. Steaming at an elevated pressure allows for a more thorough and efficient cleaning.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the steaming of the invention is conducted at an elevated pressure. Specifically, claim 1 recites that steaming is conducted at a pressure greater than about 15 psi. Support for this amendment can be found on page 6, lines 10-11.

Claims 1 and 2 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Oguri. Claims 1 and 2 had also been rejected as being indefinite.

Oguri had been cited to teach a steam washing step prior to a main washing step (col. 4, lines 59-61). Oguri does not give any guidance in regard to the pressure condition during the steam washing step (col. 3, lines 35-45). Furthermore, Oguri does not specifically teach or suggest that the pressure during the steam washing step is greater than atmospheric pressure as recited in claim 1. Oguri therefore does not teach or suggest the benefits of steaming at an elevated pressure. Thus, Applicant submits that the present invention is patentable over the teachings of Oguri.

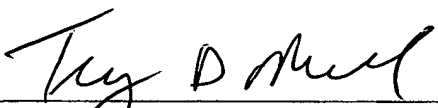
The Examiner had rejected claim 1 as being indefinite due to a typographical error. Applicant has corrected this typographical error and claim 1 now reads that the items are washed "in" the dishwasher. Applicant has also corrected a typographical in the specification. Tub 12 had been mislabeled tub 20.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. A one month extension of time is hereby requested and PTO Form 2038 is enclosed herewith authorizing payment of the appropriate government fee. Should any further fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

MUSERLIAN, LUCAS AND MERCANTI, LLP

By:


Timothy D. Meade, 55,449
Attorney for Applicant(s)
475 Park Avenue South
New York, New York
Tel. # 212-661-8000

Encl: Executed PTO Form 2038 for \$55.00
(Small Entity)
Return receipt postcard

DCL/TDM/mr